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BLM-AK-AE-85-013-1120-912

ALASKA PEOPLE

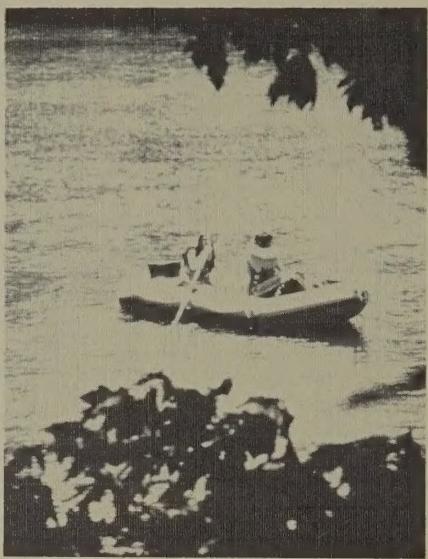
JULY 1985

VOLUME VII

NUMBER VIII

317-36

Inside:
**Glennallen: BLM's Bush
Resource Area**



On the Cover: River floating, camping, photography, fishing, wildlife observation, and sightseeing are just a few of the many recreational opportunities available in the Glennallen Resource Area. The resource area has two wild and scenic rivers; more than 1000 people boated on the Gulkana, and the Delta attracted more than 500 boaters during the 1984 season.

FS/BLM Interchange Update

The interchange implementation plan summaries and legislative concepts were released for public review and comment throughout the United States on June 7, 1985. The comment period closed July 9, 1985. All written comments received by July 8 are being considered and addressed in the implementation plans and legislative proposal.

ALASKA PEOPLE is published monthly for the employees of the Bureau of Land Management and distributed statewide. It is produced by the Public Affairs Staff, Alaska State Office, 701 C Street, Box 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513. Phone (907) 271-5555.

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Public Lands Information Center Opens In Fairbanks

by Sharon Wilson

The long awaited Alaska Public Land Information Center opened its doors to the public on June 17 in Fairbanks. One of four centers located throughout the state, the information center is designed and operated to provide Alaska visitors and residents with "one-stop shopping" for recreational information about Alaska's millions of acres of public lands.

Mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (1980), the center is a cooperative effort between five federal and three state agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, Geological Survey, Forest Service, Alaska Division of Tourism, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Bill Robertson, chief of public affairs at Fairbanks District Office and a committee member of the multi-agency effort, envisions the center as an excellent opportunity to centralize all information about Alaska. "I'm really proud of what has evolved," said Robertson. "This center was badly needed in Interior Alaska, and Fairbanks is fortunate to have such a first-rate facility."

Visiting the information center is a unique opportunity to visit a piece of Fairbanks history. The center is housed in the basement of the old Federal Courthouse, which was the first concrete building to be built in Fairbanks in 1934 and is now included in the National Register for Historic Buildings.

The information center includes a modern theatre, suitable not only for showing Alaskan films to summer tourists, but also for use by school children in class during the winter months.

The Alaska Natural History Association provides a wide variety of Alaska books, slides, and postcards for sale in the lobby of the center. Profits from the sales will be used to repair and upgrade the exhibits of the center.

The information center contains a variety of exhibits including stereopticons, through which historic scenes can be viewed; a display on how to survive the Alaskan environment; and a contemporary exhibit of what is happening in each of Alaska's six geographic regions. The six regions each provide the visitor with a view of regional scenery, Native artifacts and crafts, animals, fish, birds and plants.

Every region also includes a small video screen with five short programs specific to the area.

Some of the displays are not yet complete. In the near future there will be a cultural exhibit using artifacts from three museums, topographic maps of Alaska and the ocean floor, large wall maps of Alaskan history, public lands, weather, wildlife and vegetation, natural resources, and a trip-planning center that features a touch-screen micro-computer and printer for instant print-outs of places you may want to visit in Alaska.

The Alaska Public Land Information Center is one of four inter-agency visitor centers that will be operating around the state within the next few years. The Tok APLIC opened July 1984, and centers in Anchorage and Ketchikan are scheduled to open as soon as they are completed. The center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. seven days a week, and everyone is cordially invited by the information specialists of the center to visit and browse in this newest asset to the Fairbanks scene.

Runner's Ranks Grow At ADO

First it was the Cinco de Mayo race then a "professional" team run; soon the ADO runners will be training for the Olympics. The crew of 10 km competitors consisting of Jim Johnson, Terry O'Sullivan, Ron Huntsigner, and Kirk Rowdebaugh was joined by Laurie Riesterer, clerical assistant, who ran her first race in May.

The Sohio Professional Team Run team included Helen Hankins as well as O'Sullivan, Johnson, Kathy Tietz, and Rowdebaugh. Reports are that the team did better than expected.

It's "Shocking" What They're Doing To Arctic Char

Every summer thousands of tourists drive the Richardson Highway to and from Valdez. Flowing next to the road between Thompson Pass and Copper Center is the scenic Tiekel River. The river looks like it should be full of trout and Dolly Varden; however, the tourists who stop to fish the river are in for a disappointment. The largest "Dollies" in the river average four to six inches in length. The reason the fish are stunted is not known and may be either genetic or habitat related.

Anchorage District biologist Mike Scott, puzzled by the small size of the species, proposed a cooperative study by BLM and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to determine why.

"The fish could be stunted, or they could just be normal growing fish which are short lived," theorizes Scott. "We think there is a possibility they are resident fish who for some reason are prevented from migrating to the open sea where they would grow to a bigger size."

Under an agreement with the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, the two agencies are funding graduate students

researching both the fish and the habitat. Don Martin and Saree Gregory will conduct their studies over a 30 month period.

Obtaining a representative sample of the fish population means catching them using several methods including fish traps baited with salmon eggs, nets, rods and reels, and a device called an electrofisher. The electrofisher sends a power current through a section of water. The current stuns the fish causing them to float to the surface. The fish are measured, some are kept to be aged and some are tagged and released. The fish's age is determined by the growth rings on each of its scales or by measuring the rings of the inner ear. Often times both methods are performed to obtain the most accurate age.

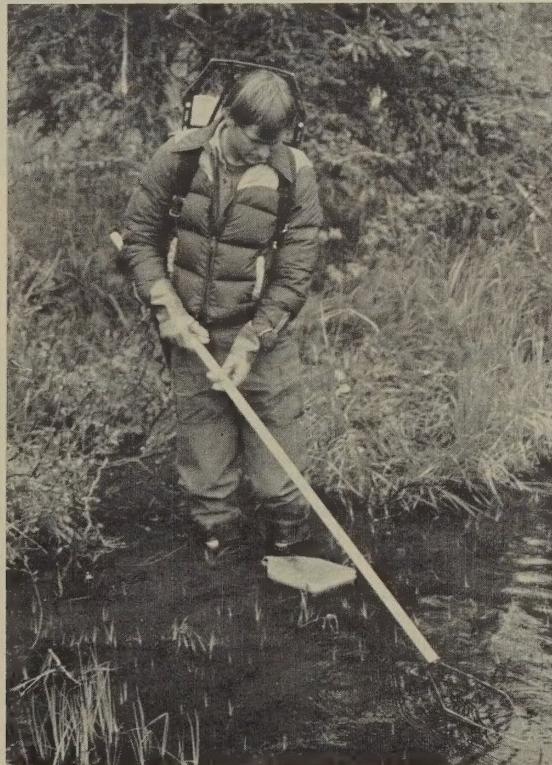
In addition to bone samples, the two researchers will collect tissue samples from the heart, liver, white muscle and eye to be analyzed at the National Fishery Research Center laboratory in Anchorage. Lab technicians will perform an electrophoretic analysis to determine the degrees of genetic

difference between and within the three forms of char in the Tiekel. Char from others streams across the state will be compared as well.

"If the fish are stunted, and we can do something to increase their size, it will make an attractive roadside fishery," says Scott. Who adds that if aiding the growth of the fish is not practical, Fish and Game may consider stocking another species in the Tiekel. That could even mean introducing some variety of salmon.

But before an anadromous fish such as salmon can be stocked, biologists must be sure the conditions are right and that there are no barriers to migration to the sea.

Using the information obtained from this study, the biologists from BLM and the Department of Fish and Game hope to improve the fishery of the Tiekel River. According to Glennallen Resource Area biologist Mike Small, "The Tiekel River Dolly Varden study is an excellent example of cooperation between state and federal agencies by which the public clearly benefits."



Don Martin fishes the easy way with his electrofisher.

Glennallen - BLM's Bush Res



The Glennallen Resource Area office reflects the Bush lifestyle — a cabin in the woods.

Working in BLM's Glennallen Resource Area offers a unique challenge to the 10 permanent employees who live and work there. Headed by Area Manager Kurt Kotter, Glennallen is the only BLM resource area office located in the Alaskan Bush.

"We represent BLM at the users' level," says wildlife biologist Mike Small. "We can empathize with the people because we live and work in their area. Most of us are heavily involved in the community, so it is hard to get away from work because you are asked BLM-related questions 24 hours a day. Either you like it here or you don't," he added.

Living in a bush community has its problems. Housing is hard to find and it is expensive. Utilities are high, some areas don't have drinking water

available, and permafrost limits the areas where you can build.

"Glennallen is unique. There's a tremendous volunteer spirit; people pitch in to get things done," says Kotter.

The Glennallen office is made up of Kotter, Small, Steve Durkee (realty specialist), Mark Philips (realty specialist), Larry Kajdan (outdoor recreation planner), Geoff Gross (recreation technician), Jeff Shryer (natural resource specialist), Kurt Sorenson (maintenance), Debbie Ball (office assistant), Phil Breaze (geologist), and Betty Hall (receptionist).

Of the 31 million acres of land within the resource area, approximately eight million are administered by BLM. Because the area is easily accessible by

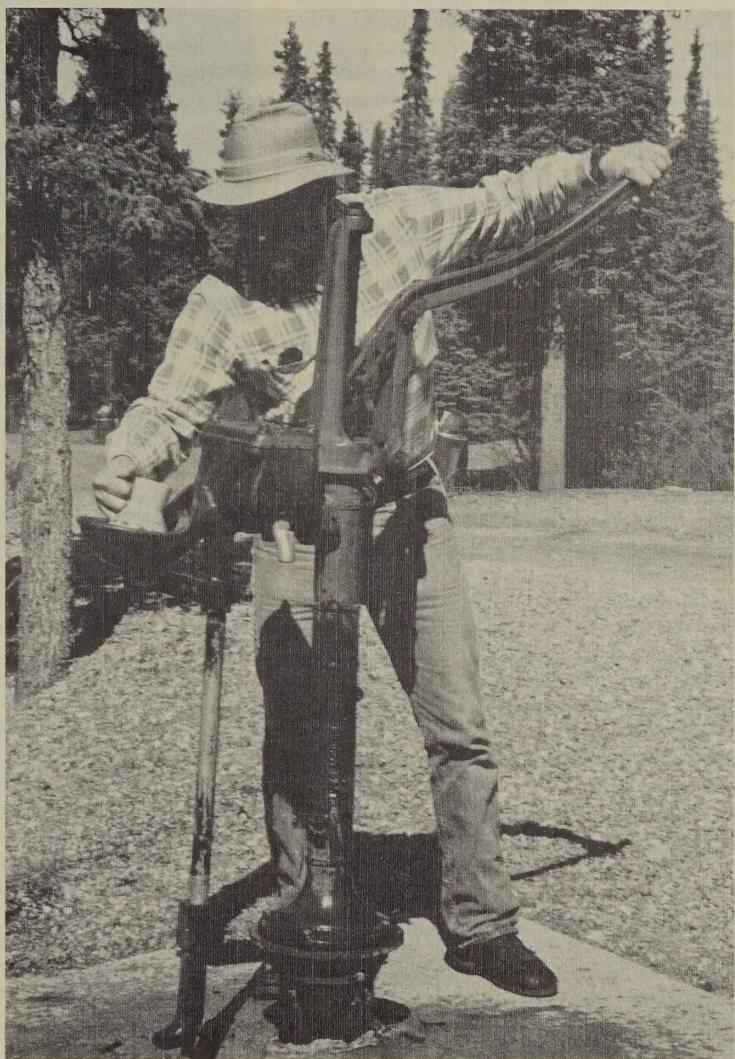
highway from both Anchorage and Fairbanks, it receives a lot of public visitation, especially to the Gulkana and Delta wild and scenic rivers and the Denali Highway.

The Glennallen team is involved in a wide variety of multiple use projects. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System bisects the resource area; the Tangle Lakes Archeological District, which covers 466,000 acres, is one of the largest such districts in existence; the area's lands program has been heavily involved in the opening of 10,250 acres near Slana to settlement entry; and wildlife inventories have documented nearly 70 bald eagle nests and the largest known concentration of trumpeter swans in Alaska. The area also contains the northernmost known

Glennallen Resource Area



(above) Mike Small, Glennallen wildlife biologist, moves a garbage can in the recently flooded Sourdough Campground, one of the popular recreation sites in the resource area. (right) Craig Altop, ADO wildlife biologist, gets a drink from the campground pump.



steelhead trout population in the world, subsistence and sport fisheries, two wild and scenic rivers, and gold mining. "We are the cutting edge of what BLM is doing in Alaska," says Small.

Mining was the chief reason the area was first explored and settled by white people. Some mining, mostly for gold, and energy mineral exploration continues. Today, however, the area is sparsely populated.

The Glennallen Resource Area contains a variety of cultural resources ranging in age from 12,000 years to the present. Some prehistoric resources may date to the earliest occupation of the new world. Prehistoric resources representing all known Alaskan chronological periods exist and include campsites, quarries, limited occupation

sites, kill sites, butcher sites, fences, and many others.

There are also four known mammoth/mastodon remains and numerous invertebrate/vertebrate fossil locations in the area. Many remains of the Pleistocene lakes, which covered the Copper Basin, also exist.

The Glennallen recreation program manages two national wild and scenic rivers, eight developed campgrounds, 150 undeveloped recreation sites, 30 trails, 50 easements on Native corporation lands, and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Big game animals such as moose, grizzly bear, and caribou are common. Area fisheries are productive; the Gulkana River, for example, produces approximately 30 percent of the salmon

in the entire Copper River drainage.

These fish are harvested commercially as well as for subsistence and by sport anglers. Currently a radio-telemetry study of steelhead trout in the Gulkana is trying to determine wintering and spawning areas. The fish have been tracked on a regular basis by fixed-wing aircraft over a period of approximately 10 months.

The remoteness of living in the Alaskan Bush has its drawbacks; but despite the inconveniences, working in the Glennallen Resource Area provides an exciting challenge to the employees who work there.

E.P.S. - Good Guys Or Bad Guys?

by Jim Pooley

Just what do the people in the "Employee Relations" section of the Branch of Personnel do? Our role is sometimes not completely understood. Even our real name is known to only a few. In fact, we are not "Employee Relations" at all, but Employee Programs and Services. We're seen as the good guys who hand out awards and the bad guys who take disciplinary actions. We're looked on as the employee advocate when we help with grievances and the villains when an employee is removed for unsatisfactory performance.

In reality, none of these views is valid. This section has never disciplined anyone. However, the Federal Personnel System has a tradition of protection of employees. Because of this, there is a somewhat rigid set of requirements that must be adhered to when taking corrective actions.

The purpose of the system is to protect employees' rights. A drawback is that it is so exacting that an action cannot be taken without the guidance and assistance of a specialist in the field. Therefore, an action as simple as a letter of reprimand, to as severe as an adverse action removal, must have the direct involvement of a member of this section of the Personnel Office.

While we will advise and assist supervisors in such matters as the appropriateness of a penalty and even help them with the letters, we are not the ones taking the action. We don't decide to discipline, decide what the discipline will be, nor do we sign the letter. These are the decisions and responsibilities of the appropriate management official.

Employees must have no doubt as to why they are being disciplined and who is disciplining them. When an action is taken, we have a responsibility also to assist employees with the process and to assure that they have an opportunity to exercise all their rights. The same person who has worked with management on the action cannot then assist the employee.

Employees also come to us when they have grievances. In the same light, we do not have the authority to grant their requests. We will assist them with the process, but the resolution must come from the appropriate management official. The same is true for incentive awards. We help supervisors put together the award packages, process the paperwork, and request any money; but the supervisor gives the awards.



Floating the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River.

River Running Season Opens With Lots Of Changes

by Joette Storm and Larry Kajdan

The Delta and Gulkana rivers in the Glennallen Resource Area are once again flowing free and wild after a long silent winter. Spring has completed its annual rite and transformed unmoving ice into lively water seeking the sea.

Just as each summer in recent years has seen changing use patterns on the rivers, this summer will also be a time of change. A new set of rules regarding the use of motorized boats and equipment and new displays offering river information will be in place when the season starts.

Kurt Kotter, Glennallen Resource Area manager, explains that the rules were drafted to fulfill BLM's role as manager of the two rivers, which are components in the National Wild and Scenic River System. "Each summer more and more people rub elbows on these rivers intent on enjoying the many recreational opportunities available," he says. "What we are finding is that as use increases, so do the conflicts—conflicts between motorboat users and those in rafts and canoes, for example."

Other management concerns, such as the prevention of wildland fire and the need to control human waste, have prompted rules regarding the use of fireworks and camping techniques. These rules were drafted after many

months of talking with the public, including river rafters, guides, and advisory council members.

Naturally BLM employees will be equipped to distribute the rules and explain them to people they meet on the river. The rules will be posted in the campgrounds as well.

Another addition will be two pictorial displays of each river with mile-by-mile descriptions of river conditions and classifications. The intent of the trailhead displays is to better prepare river users, especially those rafting and canoeing downstream.

Designed by Larry Kajdan, outdoor recreational planner, and Carol Belinski, district illustrator, the displays have been in the making for some time. They include information on minimum impact camping, flora and fauna within the river corridors, and phone numbers for emergency assistance.

* As always, BLM employees on the river approach their jobs as that of helping the public by providing information. They know a trip down the river is a special pleasure that only a relatively few people will ever enjoy, and they want to insure that the experience remains a pleasurable one for years to come.

Interior And State Exchange Land At Fairbanks And Delta

Secretary of the Interior Donald P. Hodel has signed an agreement to exchange prime headquarters and building sites near downtown Fairbanks and in Delta for nearly 5,000 acres of state land with important recreational values at several locations in Interior Alaska.

At Fairbanks the state of Alaska will acquire the land and buildings on a 22-acre site already used for offices of the Northern Region of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This is the so-called "Three-and-a-Half-Mile" site, formerly occupied by Interior's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), where the state intends to construct a new office complex. At Delta the state will acquire the Delta Campground and the land and buildings now occupied by the DNR's Northern Forestry Office.

According to Glennallen Area Manager Kurt Kotter, "The land BLM is acquiring as part of this exchange has important recreation value. The campground acquisition at Tangle Lake and Sourdough tie directly to BLM's management of the Delta and Gulkana wild and scenic rivers. State land at the existing Sourdough Campground on the Gulkana Wild River is a developed recreational site currently being managed by the BLM under an agreement with the state. The exchange will enable BLM to expand public facilities along one of the most popular rivers in the state."

"The small two-acre tract at Tangle

Lake will allow BLM to remove an old metal Quonset building, an eyesore to people entering the Delta River. The 2,000 acres along the Denali Highway west of Paxson are an important addition to a large block of federal land. This acreage encompasses approximately three miles of frontage along the scenic Denali Highway. In addition, it also provides BLM with an excellent location for a field camp or administrative site at Ten Mile Lake. The land at Circle Hot Springs is adjacent to an airstrip which is important as a firefighting base in Interior Alaska. Several other scattered parcels are unimproved."

The BLM and the state of Alaska have been negotiating this exchange for several years, and it is expected to cut long-term operating costs for both agencies. In all, the Department of Interior received the nearly 5,000 acres of back-country for 45 acres of valuable and developable land. This equal value exchange will result in long-term benefits for both management agencies in carrying out their missions. The land being acquired by the Department of Interior will enable the BLM to improve the ownership patterns in certain areas for more efficient administration, and the areas acquired by the state will provide optimum headquarters sites for agency offices.

Kotter added, "I will be more than happy to work with Fairbanks BLM on these types of exchanges in the future."

District Employees Become Top Toastmasters

Employees from both districts captured top jobs in the Toastmasters International organization in Alaska last month. Helen Hankins, ADO geologist, will serve as administrative lieutenant governor for the statewide organization. Kanza Juhre, chief of support services in Fairbanks, was chosen Division A governor.

Hankins, who joined Toastmasters five years ago to "learn how to make better presentations," says she has gained much from the association. "I have improved my speaking skills, but I have also learned to be a better listener and developed self confidence." She

adds that the association with other professionals in the private sector has been a benefit too.

As lieutenant governor Hankins will be responsible for membership recruitment and maintenance and publicity. Juhre will govern the northern division of the club which meets in Fairbanks.

Meg Jensen, realty specialist in the McGrath Resource Area, was recently chosen president of the Dimond Talkers, another toastmaster club. Her early morning group has 20 members. As president her job will be ensuring the survival and health of the club.

Accolades

QUALITY STEP INCREASE

James Ducker, Historian, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

James Gilliam, Biologist, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

Norma DeBaker, EEO Specialist, ASO Employee Equal Opportunity Office

John Young, Economist, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

SPECIAL ACT GROUP AWARD

The following people from the Branch of Pipeline Monitoring received a Special Act group award.

Arlan Kohl, Pipeline Monitoring Officer

Perry Francis, General Engineer

James Gilliam, Fish & Wildlife Biologist

Richard Gohl, Realty Officer

Kenneth Hunt, Environmental Protection Specialist

Sylvia Smothers, Secretary

The following people from the Public Room received a Special Act group award.

Catherine Bolds, Contact Representative

Janice Crouch, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Linda Jeffers-McClelland, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Margaret Pannett, Microform Equipment Operator

Jeri Sansone, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

APPRECIATION AWARD

Bob Sorenson, Branch Chief

Arlyce Wuerz, Secretary

Judy Shane-Kopko, Clerk-Typist

Gayle Ellis, Clerk-Typist

Ray Kaltenbach, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

Doris Diakakis, Lead Land Law Examiner

Bob Merrill, Lead Land Law Examiner

Jeanne Pulkownik, Land Law Examiner

Lois Simenson, Land Law Examiner

Ed Doyle, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Carla Riley, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Mary McNeil, Legal Clerk

Kay Kletka, Supervisory Land Law Examiner

Sue Faught, Lead Land Law Examiner

John Leeds, Lead Land Law Examiner

Larry Allen, Land Law Examiner

Kathleen Ferencak, Land Law Examiner

Betty Roseberry, Land Law Examiner

Dorothy Hanley, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Steve Pody, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner

Donna Austin, Legal Clerk

Joan Biggs, Land Law Examiner

Gwyn Casey, Clerk-Typist

Beverly Hicks, Land Law Examiner

Dana Martin, Land Law Examiner

Mary Nagel, Lead Land Law Examiner

Cris Rohn-Hartman, Land Law Examiner

Mary Jo Yoas, Land Law Examiner

Accolades**WELCOME ABOARD**

Carol Heath, Legal Clerk, ASO Division of Operations

Kathryn Dunagan, Secretary, ASO Division of Lands & Renewable Resources

Kelly Casey, Legal Clerk, ASO Division of Operations

Frederick Conrath, Physical Science Technician, ADO

Jean Rashleger, Student Trainee (Computer Science), ASO Division of Operations

Robert Lawson, Warehouse Worker, ADO

Stanley Mullen, Classification Clerk, ASO Division of Administration

Joanne Valentine, Supply Clerk, FDO

Welcome aboard to the following student trainees (land surveyors) in ASO's Division of Cadastral Survey:

Randy Bloom

Randy Probert

Clint Pace

Brian Anderson

William Kness

Stephen Acton

Kent Foster

Joan Honda

Brent Jones

Mark Madsen

Kenneth Nelson

Susan Orr

Scott Preston

Roger Ryburn

Kyle Scholl

Xavier Wildgoose

MOVING ON

Phillip Perkins, Forester, AFS

Kelly Casey, Legal Clerk, ASO Division of Operations

Michael Durtschi, Lead Forestry Technician (Smokejumper), AFS

Melinda Gallagher, Land Law Examiner, FDO

John Kato, Geologist, ADO

Marcia McCloskey, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

John Nelson, General Supply Specialist, ASO Division of Administration

George Schmidt, Mining Engineer, ASO Division of Mineral Resources (retired)

Debra West, Contact Representative, FDO

SUSTAINED SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE AWARD

Barbara Opp, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Stan Curtis, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Michael Brown, Supervisory Realty Specialist, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Dorothy Kiefer, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Darrell Winter, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Nancy Getchell, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Carolyn Bailey, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Carolyn Mitchell, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Arville McAllistair, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Stephanie Clusiau, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

James Braham, Computer Programmer Analyst, ASO Division of Operations

Robert Caughey, Computer Programmer Analyst, ASO Division of Operations

Jay Johnson, Computer Systems Programer, ASO Division of Operations

Linda Mowatt, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Frankie Pederson, Supervisory Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Sherri Belenski, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Doris Diakakis, Land Law Examiner, ASO Divison of Mineral Resources

Sue Wilcox, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

Sue Faught, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

William Hauser, Petroleum Engineer, ASO Division of Mineral Resources

Nell Alloway, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Ann Adams, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

Ron Royer, Land Law Examiner, ASO Division of Conveyance Management

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